

President Washington, after the Revolutionary War, and his Secretary of War, General Knox, worked very closely to try and treat the American Indians fairly, and tried to offset some of the things that had happened to the Cherokees during the period of Confederation. During the period when the results of several of the treaties were detrimental to the Indians. Shortly after Washington's inauguration the President received a letter from his Secretary of War, General Knox; "The disgraceful violation of the Treaty of Oakwell of the Cherokees require serious consideration of the Congress." I might point out this, that, violation involved an assassination of a number of Cherokee by Franklinites who descended into the Cherokee area and slew a number of Cherokees. "If so direct a manifest contempt of the authority of the United States be suffered with impunity, it will be vain to attempt to extend the arm of government to the frontiers. Indian tribes can have no faith in such imbecile promises and lawless whites who ridicule the government which shall on paper only make Indian treaties that regulate Indian boundaries." General Washington appointed a man named Benjamin Hawkins, who became a principle temporary agent to the Southern Indians. This was about ten years later, perhaps, in the Fall and Winter of 1796, visited Cherokee country and reported to the new Secretary of War on conditions there. I want to sort of wind up with this.

"At Falling Creek in the latter part of November 1796, Hawkins saw two Cherokee women driving ten very fat cattle to White settlements for sale. He encountered also shortly afterwards, traders bringing down from the mountains thirty wagon loads of skins." This is the Transition Period, that's beginning to occur. The Cherokees are moving into a more stable area. "Upon reaching Etowah on December 1st, Hawkins found a town nearly deserted since chieftains and warriors were away on a hunt. After assembling